



## Achieve with us.

*"For people with intellectual, developmental and other life-affecting disabilities."*

March 16, 2018

Dear Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Susan Desrosiers, I live in Columbia and am the Executive Director of The Arc Quinebaug Valley. I am writing this testimony in opposition to **SB 463 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FACILITIES AND RESOURCES PLAN FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.**

1. SB 463 would implement state-mandated segregation for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities at a time when **ALL** other states are moving away from institutional models. Institutional models are extremely expensive and counterintuitive to national trends. Connecticut continues to refuse to shut its institutions and find excuses for keeping them open. This **violates the civil rights of individuals with intellectual disabilities** and is keeping Connecticut in the dark ages.
2. Non-profit community based providers have expertise in supporting people with I/DD across their lifespan. Legislators should be investing in strengthening our current system of community supports.
3. Nursing homes are for profit entities and the cost of care is exorbitant. Scarce resources should not be used in for profit institutions when community based services are less costly and provide a better quality of life.
4. Who we are: The Arc Quinebaug Valley has been a provider of supports to individuals in northeast CT for 65 years. We served approximately 100 people in our service area. Our supports range from residential to in-home supports to community programs and employment services.

**Please oppose this bill! It threatens the civil rights of every person in CT with intellectual disabilities.**

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Desrosiers  
Executive Director